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Then And Now

By Frances H. Paulette

January? Not So Bad!

My boss gave an order, "Sit down and write!"
About what he did not say;
He usually leaves that up to me—
But my mind is blank today.

Christmas came, and now it gone,
The New Year just the same...
And January follows—extremely dull,
Now isn't that a shame?

But wait a minute, I'll take that back—
For no month should be dull,
We have the precious gift of life,
Let's live it rich and full!

Do you have a kind of "let-down" feeling? Maybe a case of the bleak, blue, blahs? Could be you have just joined the "I've Got a Cold Club." Well, just grab yourself a handful of tissues, give the old nose a wipe and let's talk things over.

I know how you feel. Christmas was good, New Year's even better. And now you face the new year—a new beginning and all that good stuff, but somehow you don't feel up to it. I'll tell you what, let's forget about ourselves for a minute and see what we can find out about this cold month of January, O.K.?

January was named for Janus, the Roman God of Beginnings; the festival of Janus was celebrated at the beginning of each year.

The Norsemen named the month for Thor, the God of Thunder and Storms. In England, more than a thousand years ago the Anglo-Saxons called it "Wolf Month" because fierce wolves entered the villages in search of food during the cold month of January.

In most parts of the northern half of the world, January usually is the coldest month of the year. In the southern half, it is usually the warmest.

While many of us would like to join those animals such as the beaver and the woodchuck and sleep away the month of January, in Texas, Florida, and some other southern states where the climate is mild, the growing of fruits and vegetables is already under way.

The Snowdrop is the special flower for the month of January. Is is one of the earliest flowers of the year and can often be seen blooming in the snow. The garnet is the gem ior the month of January.

If your birthday happens to be in the month of January, cheer up, you have joined the ranks of the famous. To name but a few; Paul Revere, the Revolutionary Patriot; Louis Braille, inventor of a reading method for the blind; Joan of Arc, French Heroine; Benjamin Franklin, author, humorist, scientist and inventor; Edgar Allan Poe, American poet; Robert Burns, Scottish poet; Douglas MacArthur, American General; William McKinley, 25th President of the United States; Franz Schubert, the German composer, and Franklin D. Roosevelt, 32nd. President of the United States.

There are many popular beliefs associated with the month of January. English girls once believed that they could see their future husbands in their dreams on the Eve of Saint Agnes, the night of January 20th. Before going to bed, they were supposed to perform certain rituals. Some of them stuck pins in their sleeves and recited religious verses. Others fasted all day on January 20th. and that night ate only an egg filled with salt.

Another common belief was that the first three days of January forestold the weather for the next three months.

There is an almost endless list of beliefs and customs that have their origin with the month of January; as interesting and varied as they are, they are not important.

It really doesn't matter that we find January cold, uncomfortable, and even a bit dull after the excitement of Christmas. Only one thing really matters - the gift of life and how we use it.

It's never too cold for a friendly word,
Or a happy "how are you?" grin,
Doesn't really matter how dull the month
If you're bubbling happy within!

So forget about the winter cold
Be thankful to be living.
Remember what our Saviour taught—
there's 'deep down" iov in giving.

PAMPLIN

Miss Merle Davis of Richmond visited friends in town last week.

Mr. Robert McClenny spent the holidays with his daughters in Kent County.

Mr. and Mrs. Gilmer Young have returned home after spending Christmas with their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Syd Roth of Potomac, Maryland.

Sympathy extended to the families of Miss Wilsie Thornton and Mr. Moses Goin of Appomattox.

Visitors in town for the holidays were: Mr. and Mrs. Barry Austin and family; Trixie Farrar of Richmond; Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Lucado and family of Greensboro, N. C.; Mrs. Lucie Bateman of Lynchburg; Miss Emily Anne Williams of Fairfax; Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Inge of Earleysville; Mr. and Mrs. John Ligon and family; Mr. Gill McMillen of Eastern Shore; Mr. and Mrs. Dean Delano of Warsaw; Mr. and Mrs. Wood and Sarah of Colonial Heights; Mrs. Joe Jurney and family; Bill Terry of Danville and Kathie Wood of Panama City, Florida.

Zion Baptist

You are cordially invited to attend the regular preaching service at the Zion Baptist Church Sunday at 11 a.m. with the Rev. Wyatt Venable, our special guest for the hour.

Our sympathy goes out to the Womack family in the loss of their sister, Mrs. Othelia Wood, who died on Christmas Day in Pittsburg. The funeral was held at the Zion Baptist Church on Dec. 31 at 1 p.m. The Rev. James Franklin served as M.C. The senior choir rendered beautiful music. The Ladies Aid served as flowerbearers . The Rev. L. E. Hankins delivered the eulogy.

The Ladies Aid of the Zion Baptist Church gave special Christmas boxes to the sick and shut-in. Mrs. Barbara Radcliff served as chairman. Committees, Mrs. Nannie Johnson, Mrs. Jane Byrd, Mrs. Susie Hunter. These Christmas boxes were delivered on Christmas Day on December 24. The Male Chorus played Santa Claus for our sick and shut-in with a special beautiful fruit basket to each of the sick and shut-in.

The guest in the home of Mrs. Lizzie Mack and family for the holidays were Mr. and Mrs. Marty Walker, of New Jersey; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Byrd of Richmoind; Mr. and Mrs. Elmore Hayes; Mrs. Beatrice Walker and Sanurda Walker and family, all of Richmond; Mr. Henry Mack of Pennsylvania; Mr. and Mrs. Walter Waller and daughter, of Petersburg; Mrs. Mattie Singleton of Prospect.

Friday, Dec. 26 the same guest were in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ross Edwards. Other visitors were Mr. and Mrs. Perry Edward and family of Richmond, Mr. and Mrs. John Edwards, Deacon and Mrs. Frank Johnson and son, of Pamplin; Mrs. Susie Hunter and Barbara visited Mr. Ray Hunter and family in Long Beach, N.Y. during the holiday. Mr. Leonard Jennings visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Jennings.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Jennings, Mr. and Mrs. James Mickles and family, of Richmond, visited his mother, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Dungee.

On December the Sunday School had their Christmas program. Mrs. Nannie Johnson served as M.C. Each Sunday School class sponsored a short program which was enjoyed very much. Rev. and Mrs. Lacy Allen and children took a special part on the program. Mr. Rodney Allen rendered beautiful music at the piano and prayed a special prayer. The Sunday School passed out bags for everyone with fruit, nuts and candy. Everyone enjoyed the program.

May everyone have a happy and properous New Year.

Deacon and Mrs. Frank Johnson enjoyed having their children home for the holidays, Rev. and Mrs. Lacy Allen and family, Ft. Meade, Md.; Jacob and Joseph Johnson, Brookyn, N.J.

Also visiting in the Johnson home were Mrs. Elizabeth Allen Freeport, N. Y. and daughters Jean Dungee, Sally Griffith and Tuffy, all of Freeport, N. Y.

Deacon and Mrs. Frank Johnson enjoyed a delicious dinner at the home of Deacon and Mrs. Rosser Edwards.

Rocks

Well Christmas has come and gone for some. Many had their families together and had a wonderful time.

Mrs. George Almond entered Virginia Baptist Hospital and had surgery on Thursday and returned home.

A number of the Prayer Time Circle went to see Miss Maggie Branch at Jamersons Nursing Home recently.

The Mildred Inge Sunday School Class had their Christmas party with Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Martin in their new home on Saturday night.

We are starting over on January 1 to read the Bible through again at Rocks. Want you join in with us in doing this.

Miss Wilsie Thornton passed away last week. She was the last member of that family. She was 92.

Glad to know Mrs. Elsie Thornhill is back home from the hospital doing much better.

The Fellowship Circle will meet with Mrs. Lockie Moore on January 2 at 1:30 p.m.

The Rocks Extension Homemakers Club will meet with Helen Inge on January 11 at 7:30 p.m.

A speedy recovery is wished Rev. David L. Bailey, Sr. who is sick again.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Caldwell and boys were visiting in Martinsville during the holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Spain and Mrs. Katherine Dickerson spent the Christmas holidays in Florida.

May you all have prosperity, good health, good luck and happiness in the coming year. Happy New Year.

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MRS. EYE'S 4-H

Our president called the meeting to order. Tamra Day and Sherl Martin were selected to lead us in the pledges. Next we had a game and song. Then our secretary read us the minutes of the last meeting. We had more project booklets. We also talked about 4-H Public Speaking which will be held at the end of January. Our program for the month was Opportunities in 4-H.

Leslie Ranson, Reporter

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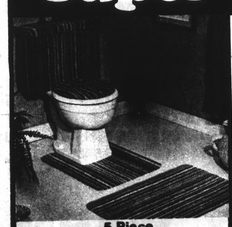

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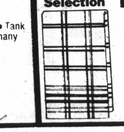

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